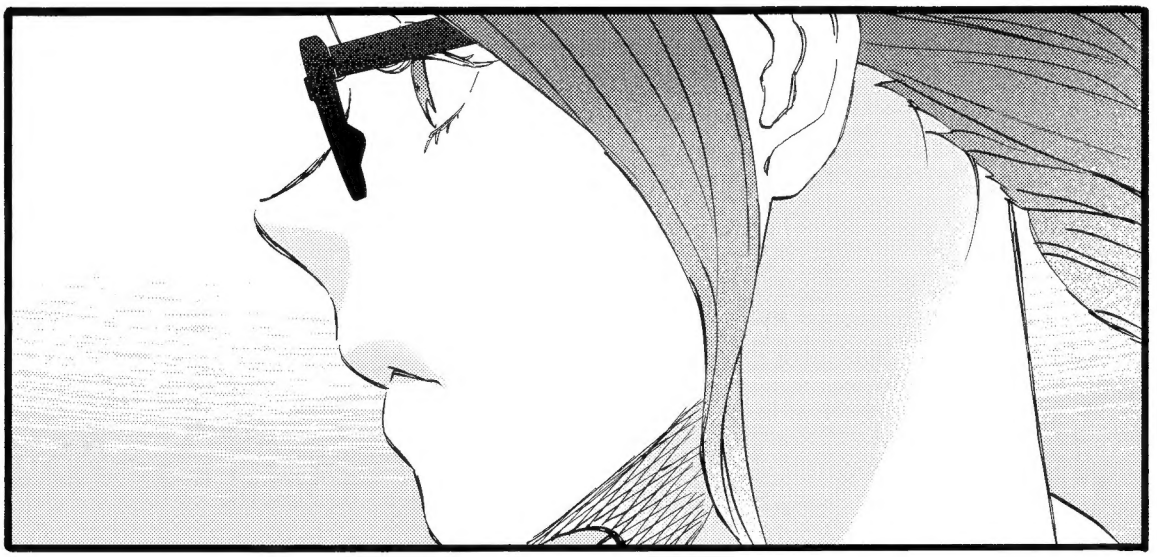
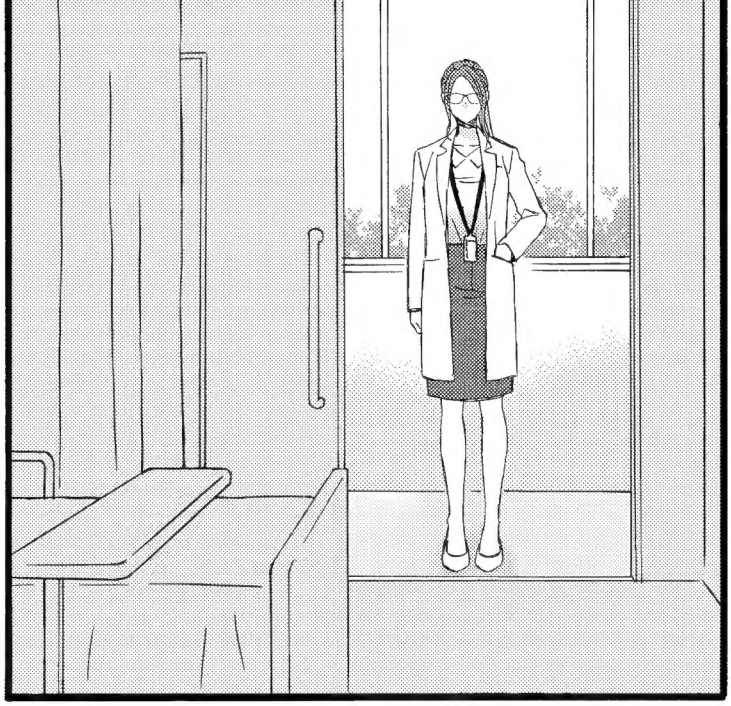
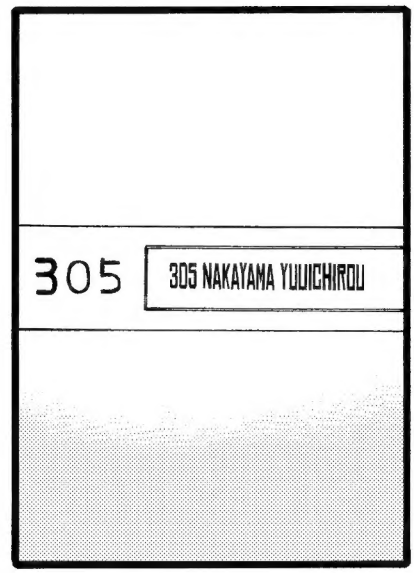
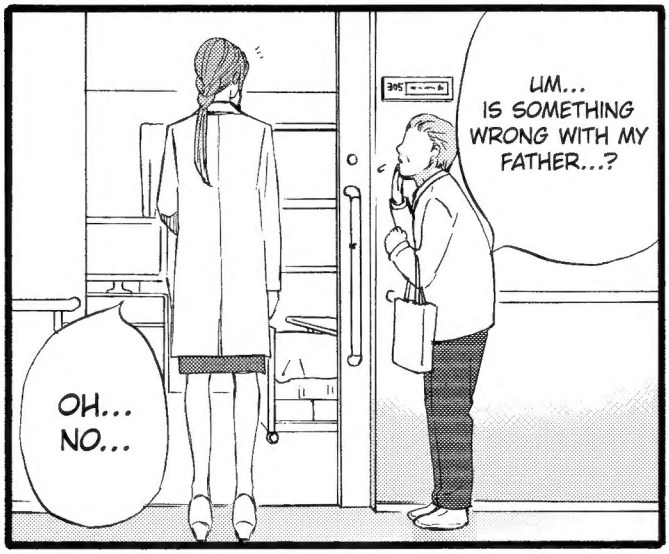
Chapter 70: Signs of Change, Once Again

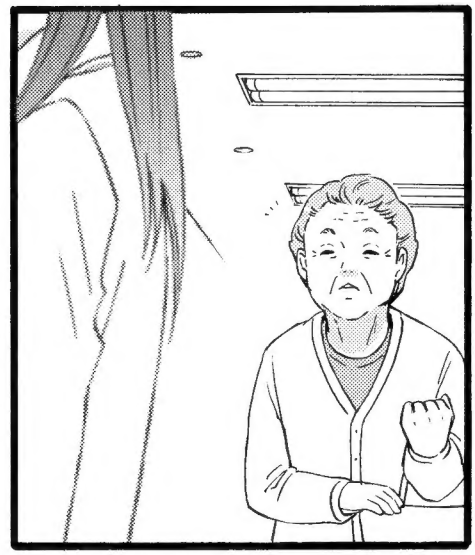
SAIGA GENERAL HOSPITAL

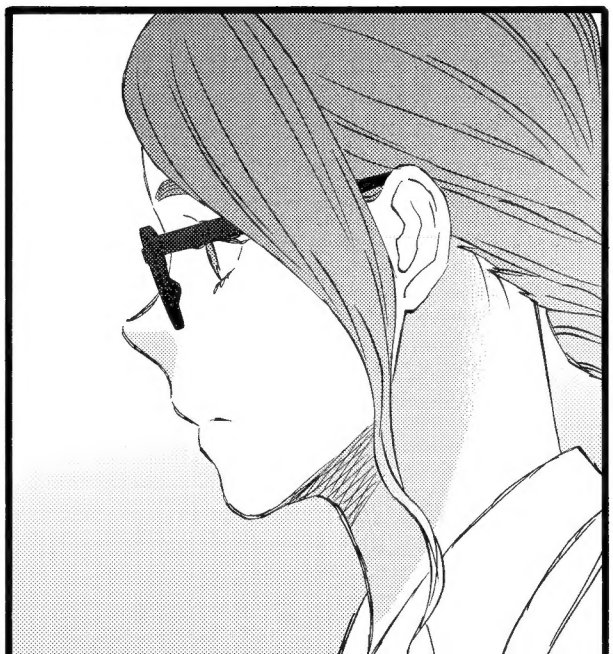





305
305 NAKAYAMA YUUICHIROU


UM... IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY FATHER...?
OH... NO...





...?
EXCUSE ME, IT'S NOTHING.

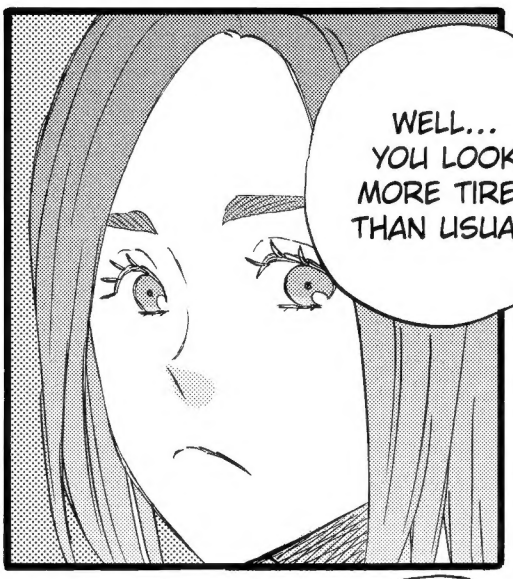
I'M HOOOME!

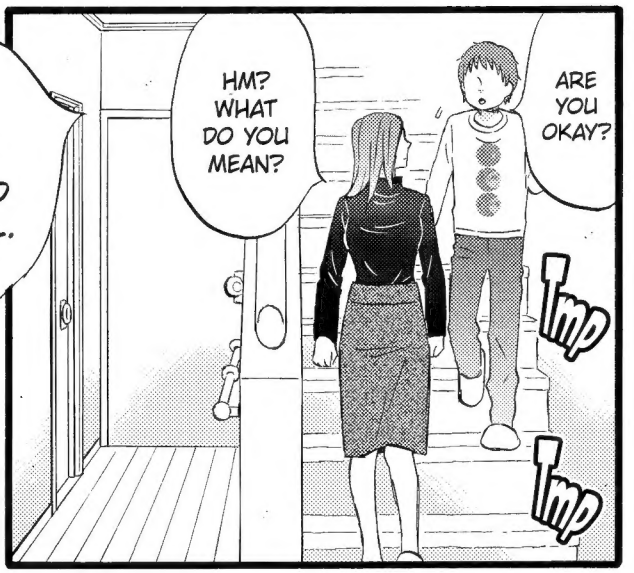
MOTHER! DINNER IS ALMOST READY!
Knock Knock
...

OKAAAY!
WELCOME BACK!
DINNER WILL BE READY SOON. CAN YOU GO WAKE UP YOUR MOTHER?

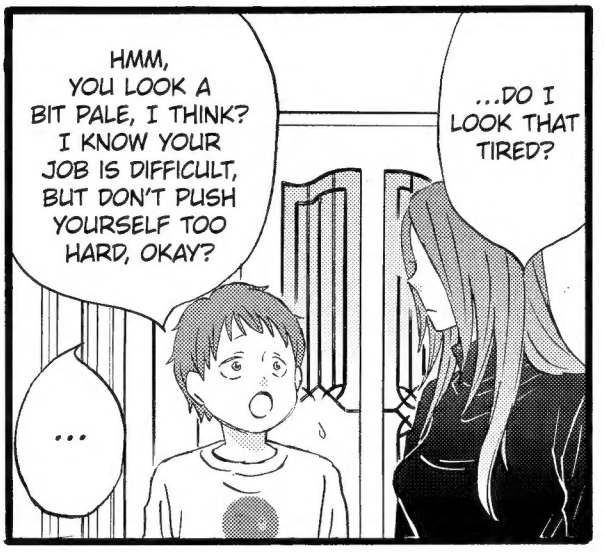
...WELCOME BACK, JUN.
THANKS!

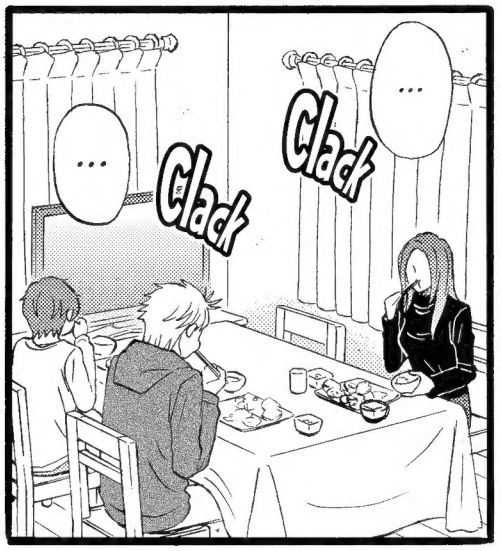
ガチャ
Ker-chak


WELL... YOU LOOK MORE TIRED THAN USUAL.


HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ARE YOU OKAY?
Imp
Imp

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, JUN. THANK YOU.


HMM, YOU LOOK A BIT PALE, I THINK? I KNOW YOUR JOB IS DIFFICULT, BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, OKAY?
...DO I LOOK THAT TIRED?
...

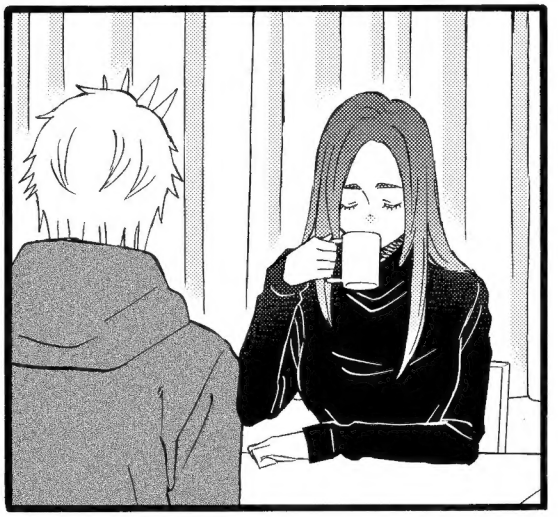

...
...
Clack
Clack

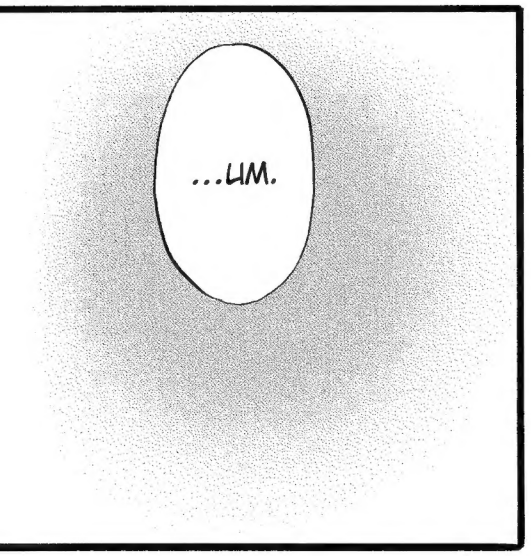
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

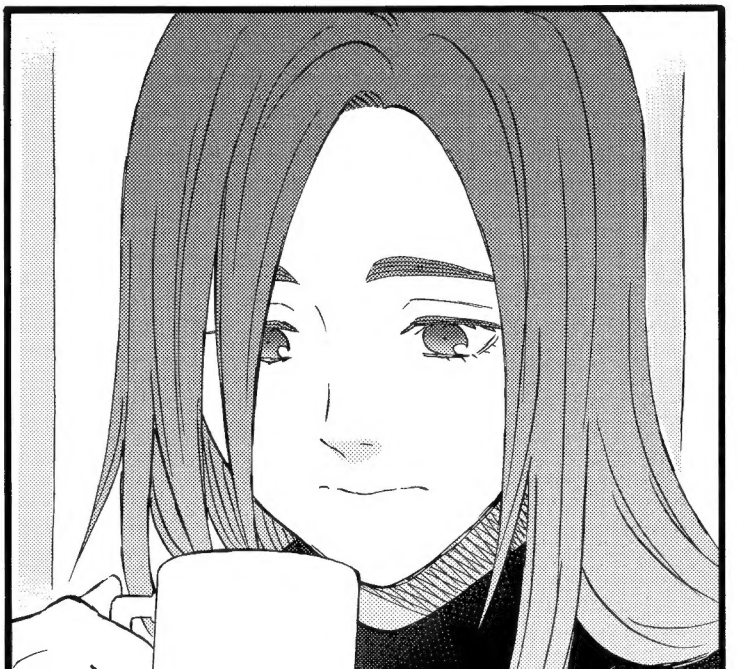
Fushhh
Clack
Clack

THAT WAS DELICIOUS!

...

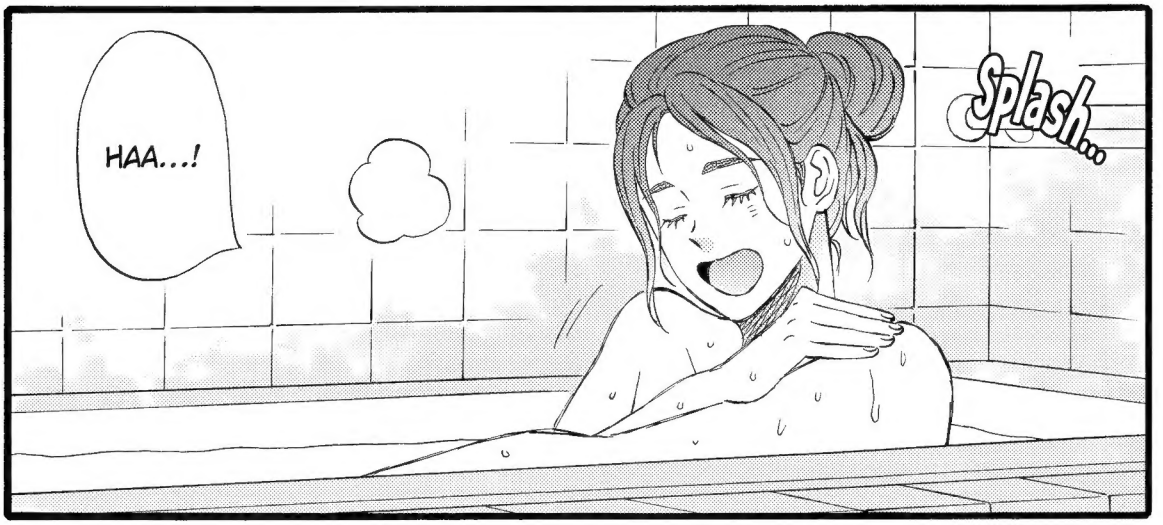



...UM.

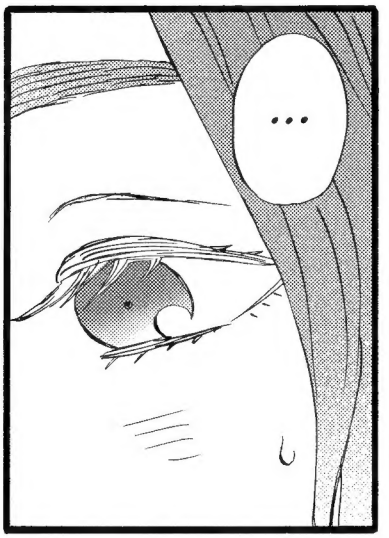


FWSHH

IF YOU WANT, AI-SAN...
YOU CAN USE THE BATH FIRST.
OHH... THEN I GUESS I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER.


Splash...
HAA...!

HAAA...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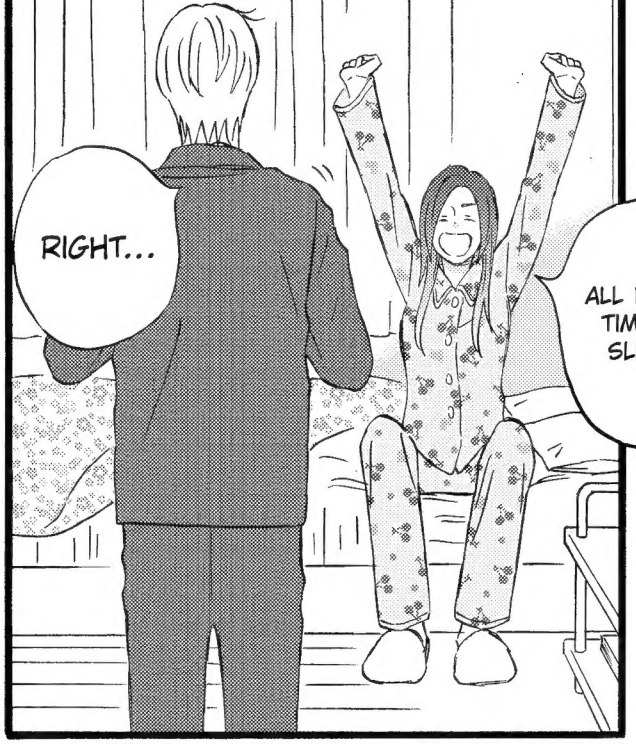
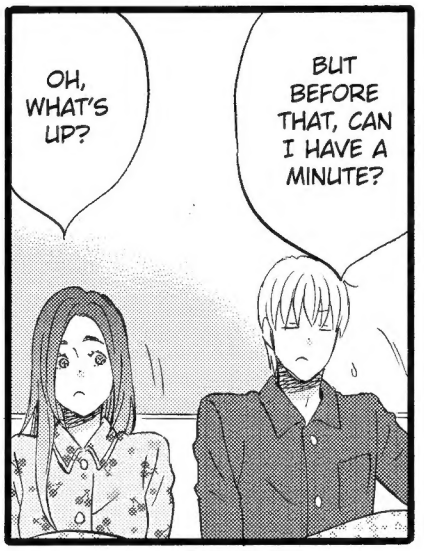
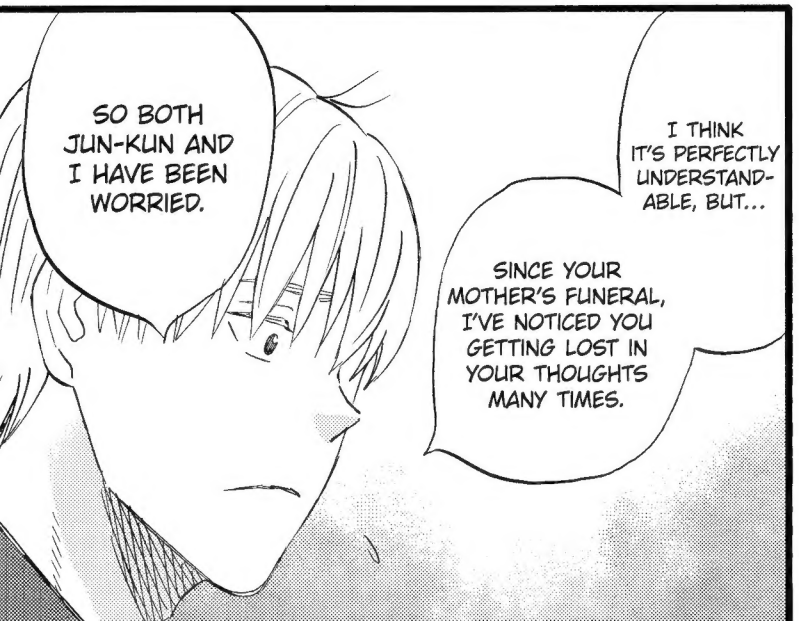
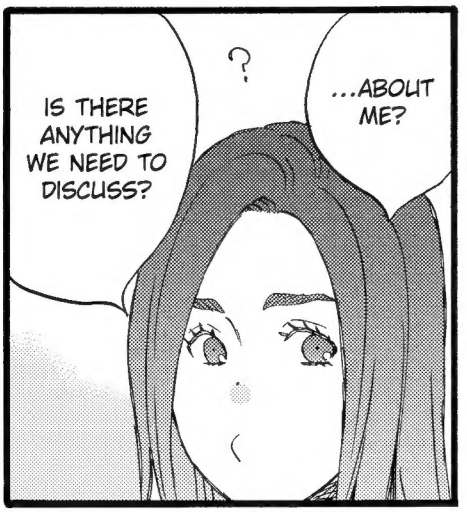

RIGHT...
ALL RIGHT, TIME TO SLEEP!

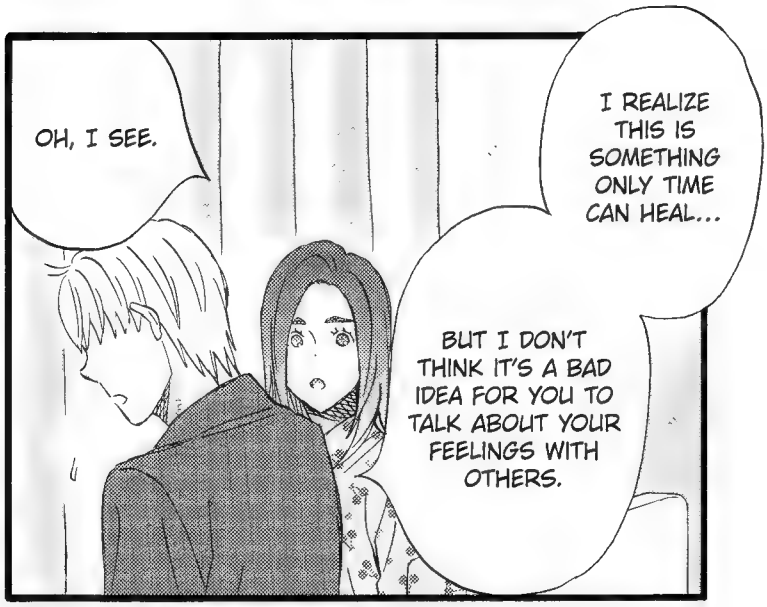
I WANT US TO TALK ABOUT YOU, AI-SAN.

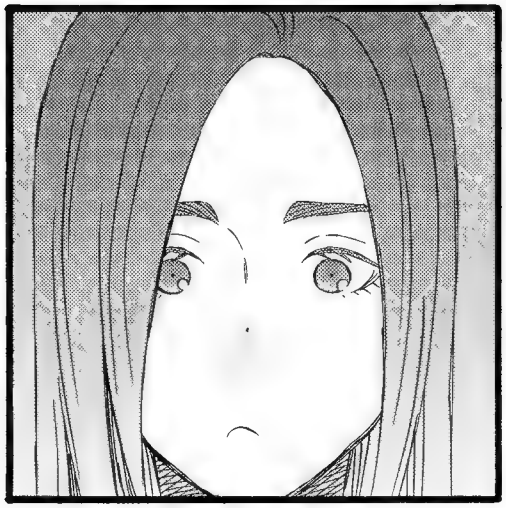

OH, WHAT'S UP?
BUT BEFORE THAT, CAN I HAVE A MINUTE?


SO BOTH JUN-KUN AND I HAVE BEEN WORRIED.
I THINK IT'S PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT...
SINCE YOUR MOTHER'S FUNERAL, I'VE NOTICED YOU GETTING LOST IN YOUR THOUGHTS MANY TIMES.

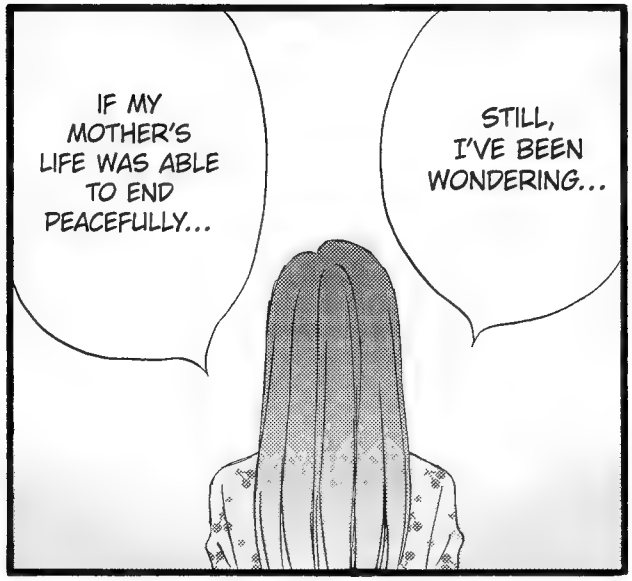

IS THERE ANYTHING WE NEED TO DISCUSS?
?
...ABOUT ME?

I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU GUYS TO WORRY.
I DO THINK I WAS ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY MOTHER PROPERLY, BUT...


OH, I SEE.
I REALIZE THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY TIME CAN HEAL...
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA FOR YOU TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS WITH OTHERS.



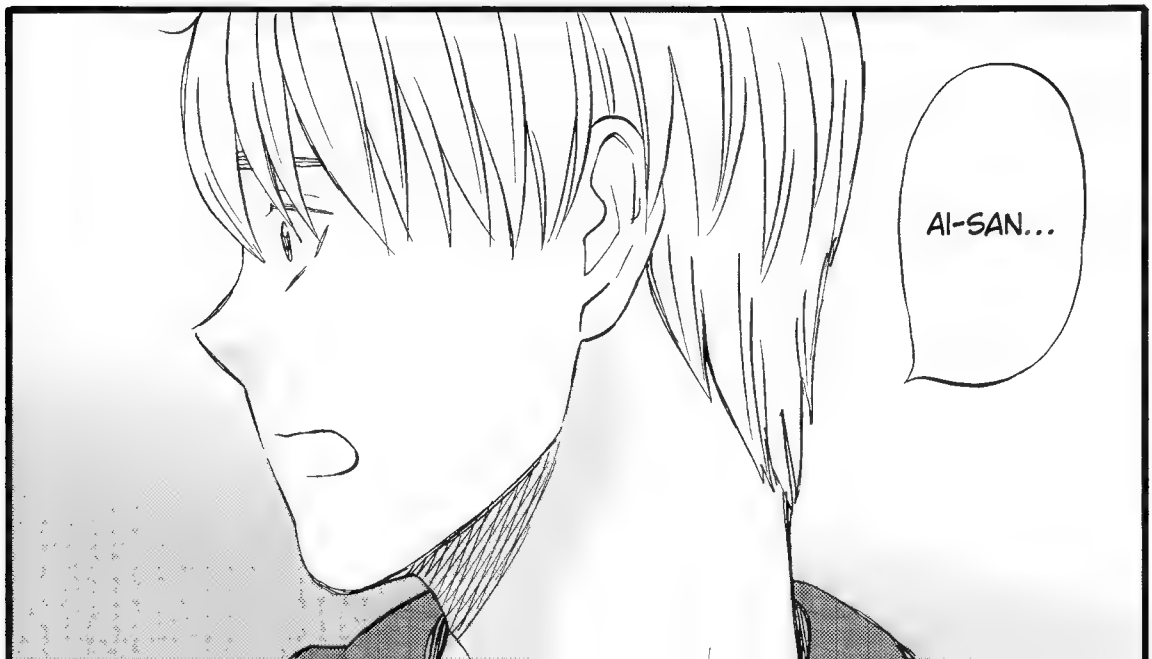
ONE THING...?
THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME...

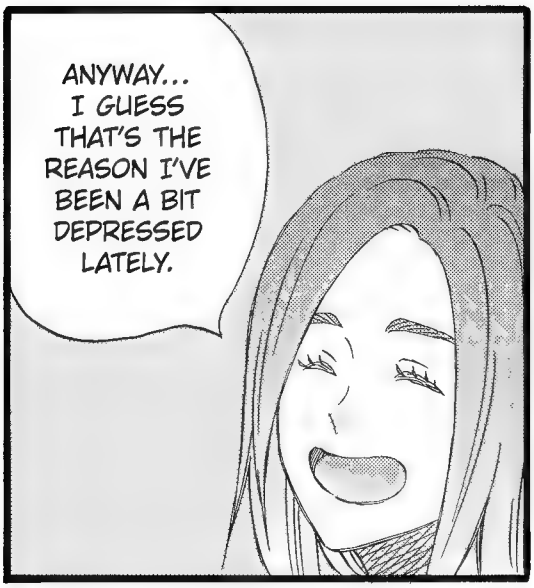

IF MY MOTHER'S LIFE WAS ABLE TO END PEACEFULLY...
STILL, I'VE BEEN WONDERING...

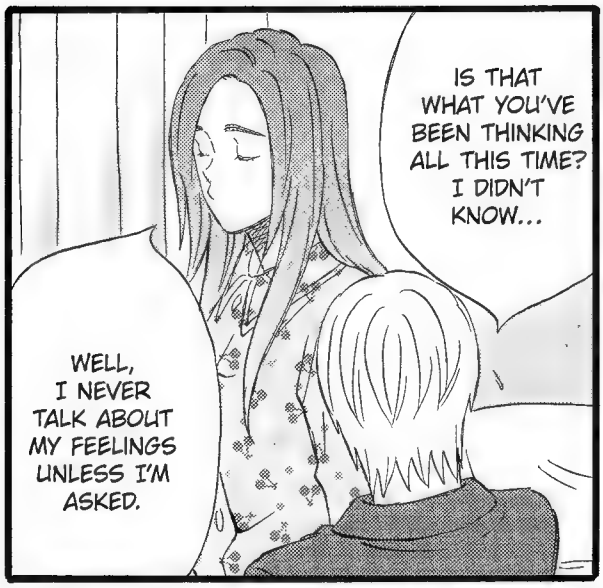
IN MY JOB, "DEATH" IS BY NO MEANS AN UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE.
IT'S A NATURAL PART OF LIFE THAT COMES TO EVERYONE WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

YOUR SELFISH WISH...?
I'M WONDERING IF SHE WASN'T JUST CLINGING TO LIFE BECAUSE THAT WAS MY SELFISH WISH.
THERE WERE A FEW CLOSE CALLS, IN FACT.
BUT EVERY TIME, MOTHER MANAGED TO RECOVER...
HOW FAR SHOULD LIFE-EXTENSION MEASURES GO? THAT'S THE QUESTION.
IN SHORT, SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO CHANCE OF RECOVERY WISH TO BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF EUTHANASIA IN ORDER TO BE RELIEVED OF THEIR PAIN AND SUFFERING...
...WITH DIGNITY?
...I BELIEVE A PERSON SHOULD DIE WITH DIGNITY.
MY MOTHER WAS IN THAT SITUATION FOR A LONG TIME.
NOT BEING ABLE TO MOVE OR SPEAK, NOT BEING ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT SOMEONE'S HELP... HOW DID SHE FEEL ABOUT THAT?
I'M NOT SURE HOW AWARE MY MOTHER WAS OF HER OWN STATE.

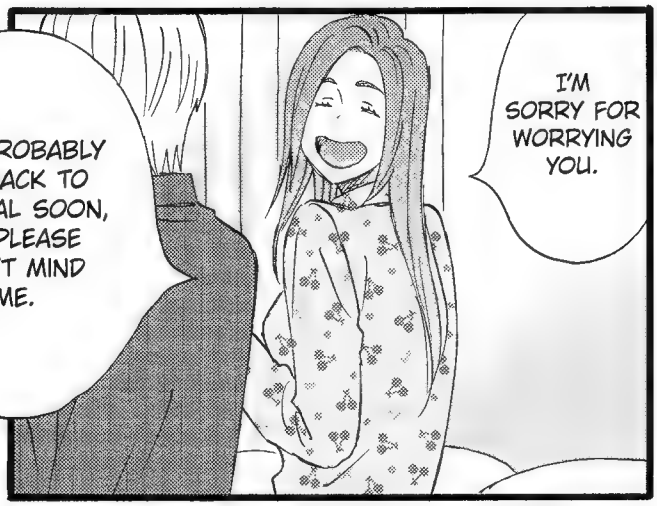
MAYBE SHE WISHED FOR HER DEATH TO COME SOONER...?
THERE WASN'T A DAY I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT.


AI-SAN...

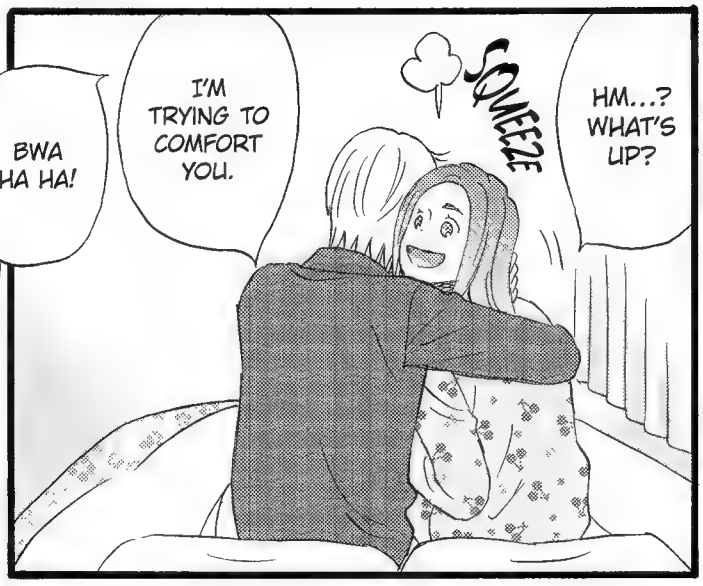

ANYWAY... I GUESS THAT'S THE REASON I'VE BEEN A BIT DEPRESSED LATELY.

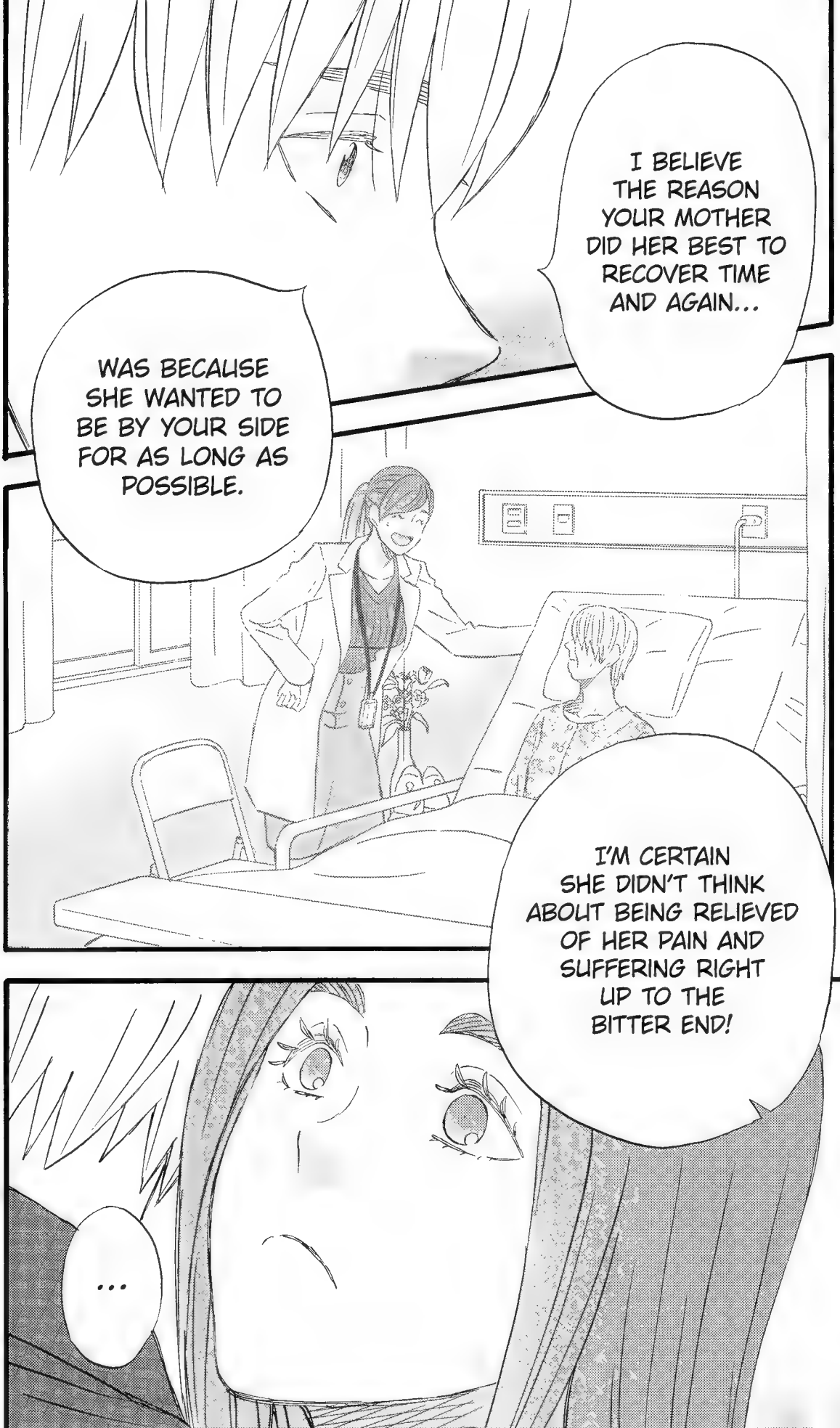

IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ALL THIS TIME? I DIDN'T KNOW...
WELL, I NEVER TALK ABOUT MY FEELINGS UNLESS I'M ASKED.

...
I'LL PROBABLY BE BACK TO NORMAL SOON, SO PLEASE DON'T MIND ME.

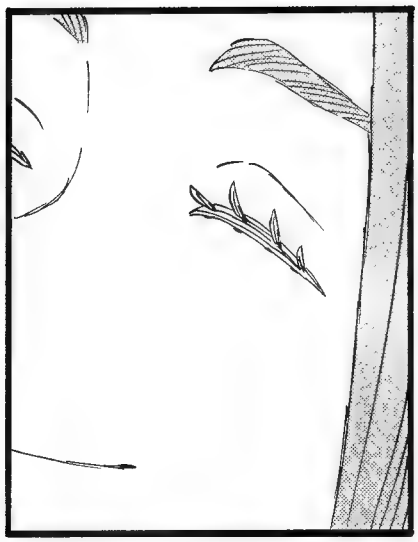

I'M SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU.

I SEE. THANK YOU.

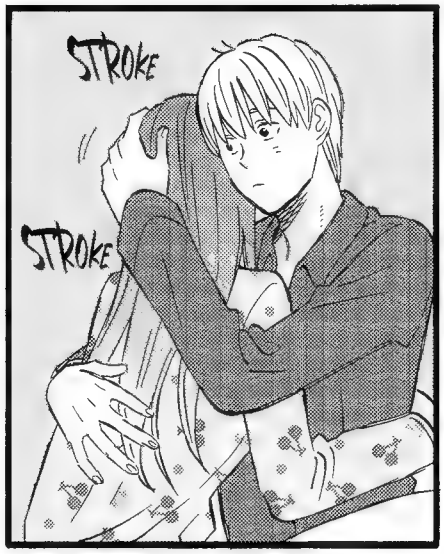

BWA HA HA!
I'M TRYING TO COMFORT YOU.
SQUEEZE
HM...? WHAT'S UP?

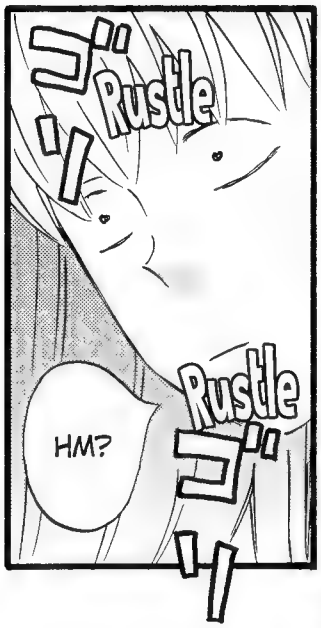

I BELIEVE THE REASON YOUR MOTHER DID HER BEST TO RECOVER TIME AND AGAIN...
WAS BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE BY YOUR SIDE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
I'M CERTAIN SHE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT BEING RELIEVED OF HER PAIN AND SUFFERING RIGHT UP TO THE BITTER END!
...

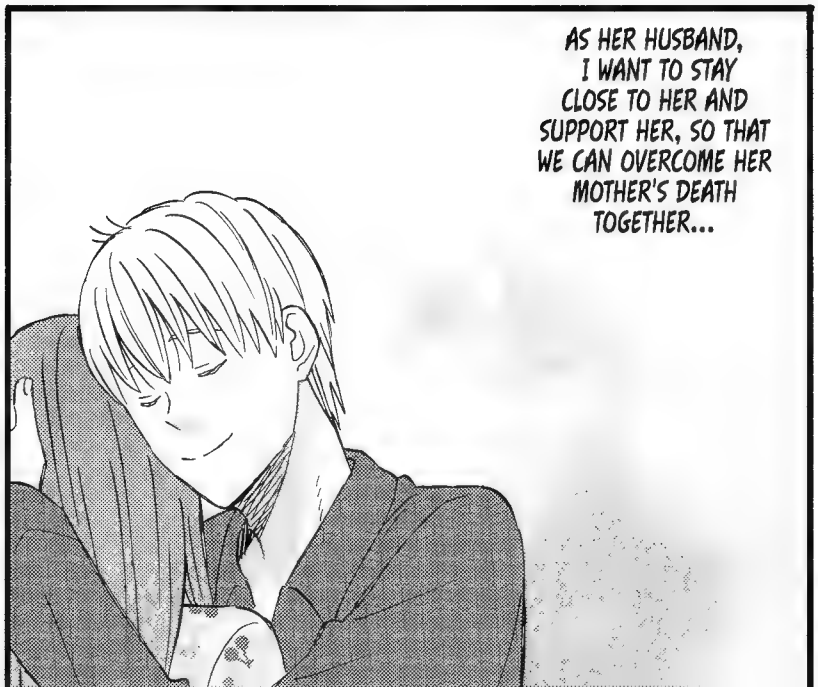
SQUEEZE
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
THANK YOU, SHIROU-KUN...

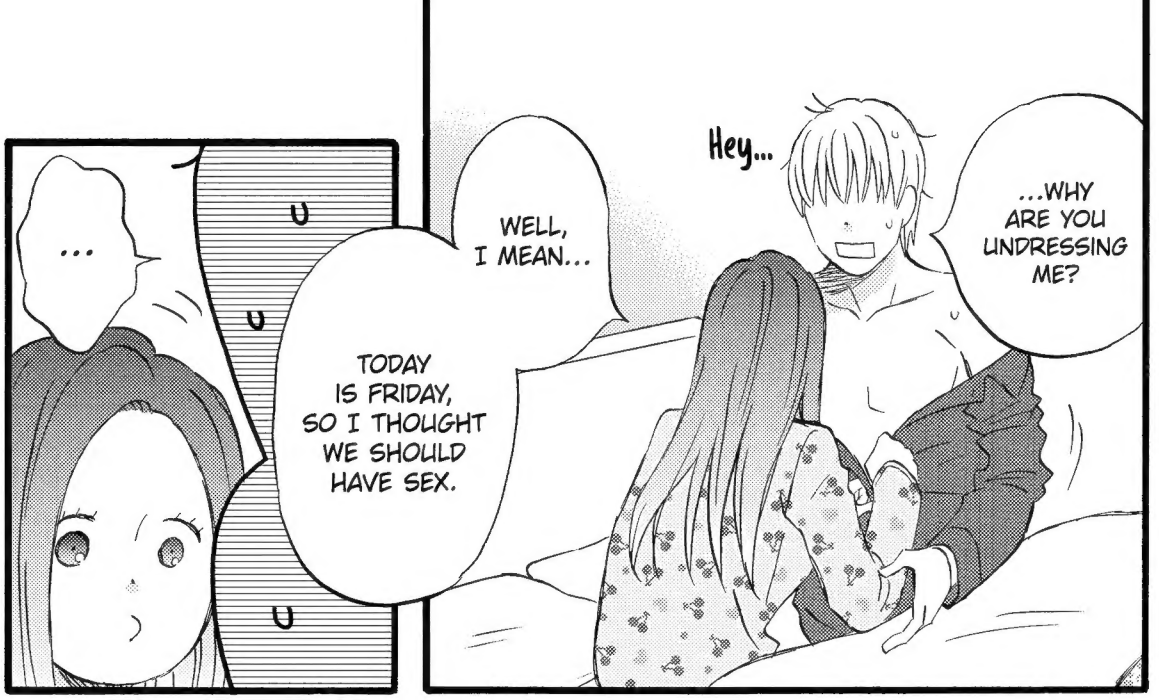


IT'S RARE FOR AI-SAN TO SHOW THIS SIDE OF HER.
I FEEL LIKE SHE'S OPENING UP TO ME, IN HER OWN WAY...


STROKE
STROKE


Rustle
Rustle
HM?


AS HER HUSBAND, I WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO HER AND SUPPORT HER, SO THAT WE CAN OVERCOME HER MOTHER'S DEATH TOGETHER...

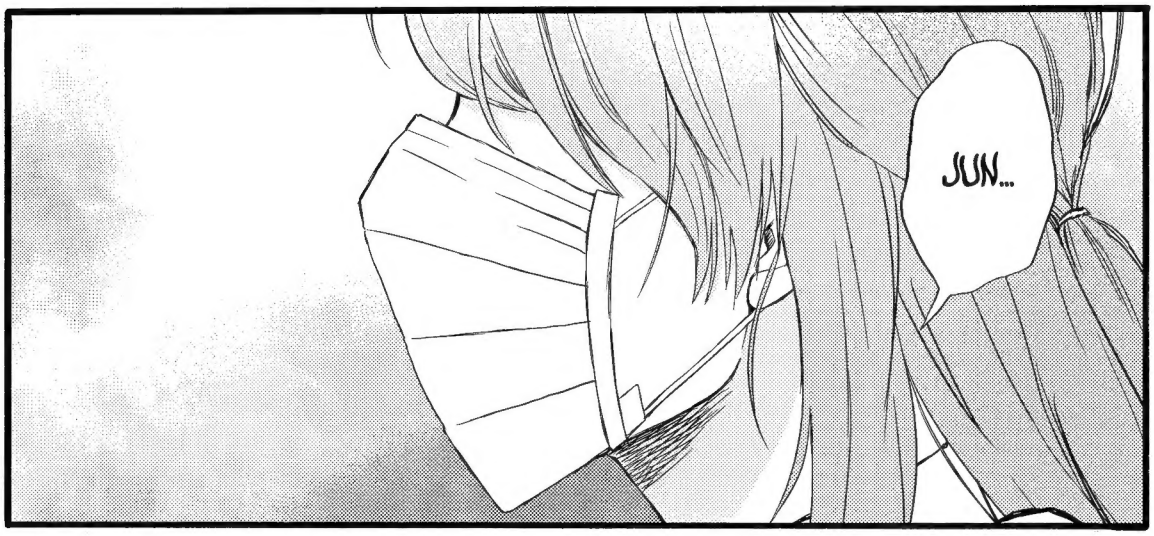

Hey...
...WHY ARE YOU UNDRESSING ME?
WELL, I MEAN...
TODAY IS FRIDAY, SO I THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE SEX.
...

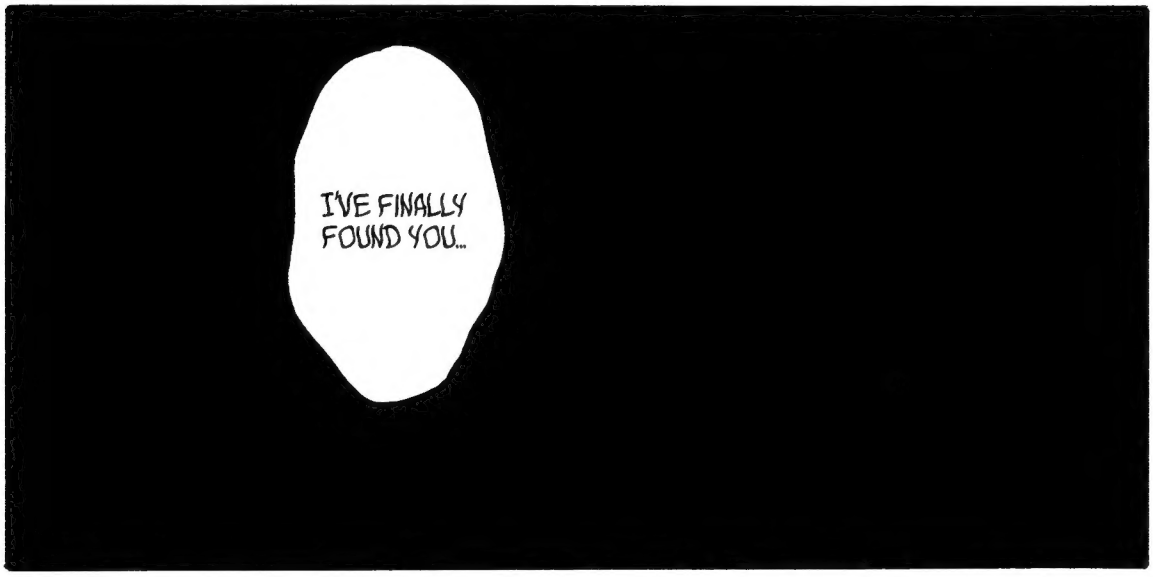
Geez!
YOU ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO RUIN THE MOOD!
HUH? WHY ARE YOU ANGRY?
SOME THINGS THAT ARE LOST CAN NEVER RETURN.
EVEN IF ONE WISHES TO WAIT, TIME PASSES AT THE SAME UNCHANGING SPEED, BRINGING CHANGE WITH IT.

I'M OFF!

HAVE A GOOD DAY!
Do your best at work, Mom!
You too, Jun. Give it your all!
Okaaay!
WHETHER YOU DESIRE IT OR NOT...

LIFE IS ALWAYS, UNAVOIDABLY, CHANGING.
...


JUN...


I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU...